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fight such an aggregation of warships as the fifty-four which took part in the Caribbean manœuvres, — manœuvres which were a great object lesson to his Majesty. And what is all this talk of Admiral Dewey for? If the German navy is such an insignificant affair, why is the Admiral so strenuously urging the ordering of five more great battleships next winter? We have no "enemy" but Germany! The admiral probably reasoned — altogether unconsciously, of course — that a little airing of the "weakness" of the German navy would irritate the Kaiser and provoke him to push on with all speed the building up of his fleet, and then Congress would feel compelled to authorize the five new ships on this side, to checkmate him. Whether Dewey, whose inconsistency in wanting more ships is hardly to be explained in any other way, had any such thing in mind, the upshot will be exactly this. Already one of the Kaiser's commanders has taken up the cudgels for him, and indulged in a counter depreciation of our navy and its officers and men. That, of course, will trouble our folks with dread of the Kaiser's awful fleet, and so the navy promotion game goes on. How to stop the mouths of these naval mischief makers is a problem which may well engage the serious attention of benevolent people.

Full of Promise. Further cordial endorsement of the proposition for a regular international congress continues to come in. John Willis Baer, so long Secretary of the National Y. P. S. C. E., now of the Presbyterian Home Mission Board, sends his "heartiest congratulations." President Thwing of Cleveland sends "heartiest congratulations," and says that "the movement is full of opportunity for the betterment of mankind." The *Congregationalist* in a two-column editorial on the subject, in its current issue, says: "Those who have been active in this movement toward the organization of the world as a single political body are not indulging in dreams. They recognize that the accomplishment of world unity is full of practical difficulties. But the underlying unity of mankind, superior to all man-made constitutions, will assert itself and ultimately the goal will be attained, if the progress of the nations is to continue."

"In the meantime, the plan proposed by the American Peace Society has its practical advantages. It does not propose the abandonment by the nations of their formal sovereignty. It is expected that they will insist upon their prerogatives and that they will not give up any attribute of sovereignty for perhaps a long time. The proposed international congress, according to the scope of the petition, would have only power to recommend to the nations that they adopt uniform legislation among themselves. In that respect it would be practically parallel to the interstate commissions, which have endeavored to promote uniformity of legislation among the

states of the United States upon subjects over which each state is absolutely sovereign. Such legislation has been attained in respect to forms of business paper, to divorce legislation and other subjects of universal interest among the states."

Brevities.

. . . The twelfth Universal Peace Congress, which was to have met at Vienna in May, has now been definitely postponed till September. The place and exact date of it will be fixed by the International Peace Bureau within a few weeks.

. . . The next Conference of the International Law Association, the twenty-first meeting, will meet at Antwerp, on the invitation of the Burgomaster of the city, on the 29th of September next. The Council of the Association have just had printed the reports, hitherto unpublished, of the first two conferences held at Brussels and Geneva in 1873 and 1874, respectively.

. . . The *Boston Transcript* says: "The argument recently put forward by French Socialists that a great national army, instead of making for peace, is a standing incentive to a scrap, certainly merits consideration. There is no doubt that the huge, untried German army burns in the Kaiser's pocket like a crisp dollar bill in a small boy's clothes."

. . . A dispatch from South Africa, March 13, stated that the Governor of Natal had proclaimed the King's pardon for all persons who were awaiting trial for treason or other offenses committed during or arising out of the recent war.

. . . The International Institute of Peace Studies was opened at Monaco, by Prince Albert of Monaco, on the 25th of February, in the presence of the principal members of the Monaco Academy.

. . . Andrew Carnegie has offered two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the Hague International Court for the creation of an international law library for the use of the court. We suppose his negotiation for the purchase of the estate referred to in our last issue is with the view of installing the library in it.

. . . The Paris Central Committee of the Women's Universal Peace Alliance has asked the Minister of Public Instruction to allow the distribution in the public schools of books, pamphlets, pictures, etc., inculcating the principles of peace.

. . . The governments of France and of Guatemala have practically agreed to submit to the Hague Court the claim of a French citizen against Guatemala for reimbursement for outlays on important government works in 1896-97. Negotiations are going on for the submission of the case.

. . . The International Peace Institute of Monaco was inaugurated by Prince Albert on the 25th of February. The work of the Institute will be the publication of works on international law, on the pacific solution of controversies, statistics concerning war and armaments, the development of international institutions, peace education and propaganda, etc.

. . . Nine of the French peace societies joined in the manifestation of the 22d of February at Paris. Frederic Passy presided, of course.

. . . The annual meeting of the General German Peace Society was held at Schweinfurt, Bavaria, on the eighth of March. Among the speakers at the public meeting were Dr. Adolf Richter of Pforzheim, Pastor Umfrid of Stuttgart and Professor Quidde of the University of Munich.

. . . A speech, which has produced a powerful impression throughout Europe, was made in the German Reichstag on the 4th of February by Professor Hoffman of Halle in favor of better relations between the nations, a decrease of the excessive burdens of armaments, and a more frequent use of the Hague Tribunal. He declared that the supreme mission of governments and parliaments is to promote tranquillity and security within and right and justice in foreign relations.

. . . The fourth number of the *Tolstoyan*, a monthly magazine of practical idealism, has come to our table. It is published by O. W. Daniel, 5 Water Lane, Ludgate Hill, London, E. C., England, and edited by F. E. Worland. It is devoted to the principles for which Tolstoy stands, including his anti-war views. Eight pages of this number are devoted to Tolstoy's teaching. The magazine is of the pocket type, and the price is four shillings per year.

. . . The *Whim* is perfectly right in its outspoken disapproval of the Durbar in India as "an utterly useless piece of pageantry, the only object of which was to hypnotize still further the wretched victims of the Empire." Such a display as that, intended to dazzle and dupe the natives, out of whom the millions spent upon it were squeezed, is little short of the supremest political folly and wickedness possible in our day.

. . . The French Senate on the 13th of February adopted the principle of two years' military service instead of three.

. . . In one garrison of the Austrian army there were no less than sixty-five suicides during the year 1902, the cause being the harsh and brutal treatment of the soldiers by their officers. All the newspapers which made mention of this brutal treatment were suppressed.

. . . No nation has yet been found willing to buy the partially completed warships of Chile and the Argentine Republic which are, under the treaty between them, to be sold. Chile and Argentina, through their ministers at Washington, have offered the ships to our own government. It would be curious, to say the least, if these ships, which it is proposed to sell in the interests of peace, should not find a buyer. Have the gods "tabooed them"?

. . . The British army estimates for 1903-4 issued on the evening of March 5 call for a total expenditure of \$171,225,000, twenty millions of which is for special expenditure in South Africa.

. . . The final agreement between the Senate and the House on the navy appropriation bill provided for five battleships, three of 16,000 tons and two of 13,000. No cruisers were provided for.

. . . Now that the Alaska boundary question has been referred to a special mixed commission of six persons, it is understood that the remnants of the original United States-Canadian joint high commission will get together again next autumn and take up the other questions which were originally submitted to it. New members will be named to fill the vacancies caused by death.

. . . It is reported that at the request of the Hague Court the Swiss Federal Council is issuing proposals for a revision of the Geneva Red Cross Convention, and has already issued to the interested governments invitations and prospectuses for an international conference to meet in September this year.

. . . The objections made in Canada to the United States members of the Alaska Boundary Commission have not resulted in Great Britain's declining to name representatives thereon. Lord Chief Justice Alverstone of Great Britain, Sir Louis Jette, ex-member of the Supreme Court of Quebec, and Sir John Douglas Armour, of the Supreme Court of Canada, have been named as the British members of the Commission.

. . . The exceptionally heavy death rate in the French army is declared to be due to the fact that, in order to keep up the large number of armed forces, a greater proportion of the very young men are drafted into the service than in neighboring countries, and to the further fact that the general treatment of the soldiers is so full of abuses as to cause much suffering and death.

. . . The new shell, on whose testing at Sandy Hook the government has spent \$150,000, was expected to "work wonders." It did. It blew a twelve-inch gun to pieces, and proved itself entirely too "advanced" to be of any use. It has gone to the junk heap, another proof of national folly and extravagance.

. . . The government of San Domingo has informed United States Minister Powell that it is willing to issue a decree, as requested by him, to place Mr. Salvador Ros in the full possession of the benefits of his concessions. The government had previously refused to take over certain improvements made by Mr. Ros on the government's order. Mr. Tejera, the minister of finance, has resigned because of the settlement.

. . . The suggestion has been made at Honolulu that the claims of British subjects against the Hawaiian government on account of the alleged illegal imprisonment of them during the Hawaiian revolution might be referred to the Hague Tribunal. The claims have been the subject of continuous negotiations since the revolutions of 1893 and 1895, and in his message to the Legislature Governor Dole suggests that a commission be provided to investigate them.

. . . The Venezuelan government has accepted without reserve the protocols signed by Minister Bowen at Washington, and Germany has been paid the first installment of the \$340,000 pledged to her.

. . . The *Ellis County Mirror*, Waxahachie, Tex., says: "All wars are now avoidable, if we *would* avoid them; and hence they become thoroughly and indisputably criminal, especially from the Christian's standpoint."

. . . The Austrian group of the Interparliamentary Peace Union has been increased by thirty-three new members from the two Houses of Parliament, and now has a membership of one hundred and sixty-five.

. . . At the banquet of the French Arbitration Society on the 22d of February, a marble bust of himself was presented to Frederic Passy by his friends throughout France. The bust was executed by Madame Elisa Bloch, and the funds were furnished by Mr. Ansbert Labbé, whose service in having painted and presented to the Czar of Russia the great picture entitled "*Les Grands Artisans de l'Arbitrage et de la Paix*," is well known.

. . . *Leslie's Weekly* for March 5, in a strong editorial on "The Worship of War," says that "It would be impossible to conceive a much thinner or more miserable pretext for the bombardment of the Venezuelan fort at San Carlos than that given in the German parliament by Count Von Bülow, who, when pressed to give an explanation of it, replied that it was necessary to preserve German prestige." Von Bülow's reason differs from those in other countries in support of the national war worship chiefly in being more honest.

. . . Of the \$753,484,018 appropriated at the last session of Congress, \$307,704,309 was for past war expenses and military preparations for the future. Only \$2,000,000 are given annually for our diplomatic and consular advice, \$6,000,000 for the promotion of agriculture, and the entire educational expenses of all the States of the Union amount to but \$200,000,000.

. . . An international sanitary congress, similar to those held during the past twenty-five years, is to be held at Bradford, England, from July 7 to 11 this summer. The United States has been invited to send representatives.

. . . Spain having signed a protocol for the appointment of a mixed commission, with an umpire to be named by Mexico, to adjust the claims of Spanish citizens against Venezuela, Denmark is the only remaining nation having claims which has not provided the machinery for their adjustment. It is said that the nine nations outside the blockading alliance will present a solid front at The Hague against any preferential treatment in the payment of the three blockading powers.

. . . Carl Schurz declares that a war between the United States and Germany "would not only be criminal, but idiotic, an absurd atrocity, a murderous nonsense." Why could not the same thing be said with equal justice of a war between any other two of the civilized nations?

. . . President Roosevelt has extended for six months from March 2 the life of the Spanish Treaty Claims Commission, which met first in April, 1901, and has since been examining claims growing out of the Spanish-American War.

. . . Communications are being exchanged for the establishment of a parcels post between Great Britain and the United States. Great Britain has long desired such a post, but it was only recently that our government was ready to entertain the idea. Give us a parcels post quickly, with just as little negotiations as possible.

Whence?

BY EDWIN ARNOLD BRENHOLTZ.

Whence cometh Love but from the source?
'Twixt fount and ocean no divorce,
Here or through all eternity.

Thine act betrays thy hidden thought;
Without the thought no deed is wrought,
Hath been, yea, cannot ever be.

Vain, then, are all our cries of Peace
While each sun sees the vast increase
Of Greed and Hate and Lust;

And armaments piled mountain high,—
From them be sure sweet Peace must fly.
Oh, hasten! grind them into dust;

And make the man of blood abhor'd;
Now be the God of Peace adored,
And Love shall have his way;—

Aye, come with a resistless rush,
And Peace, too, in the tranquil hush
Which follows Love's kind sway!

The Church and Present Day Ethics.

BY MARY S. ROBINSON.

Estimates, valuations of the Christian church, vary among its differing divisions. The ritualistic branches, modern and ancient, regard themselves each as the one true representation of the earthly-heavenly society, and lay claim to a divine authority, a divine indwelling, each for itself. Tradition, councils, the dicta of high functionaries, to the ritualists, are the voice of the Supreme Sovereign uttered through these media. The non-ritualistic divisions are less pretentious in their claims; yet, as a rule, they hold that the church general is the depository of spiritual truth, the authoritative teacher of theoretical and of practical religion. The more liberal, so-called, define the church as simply a body—not the sum total—of believers in spiritual truth; a body of men and women seeking spiritual life and ethical soundness. This valuation is credible by reason of the moderation of its claim. It is also supported to a degree by the historical record.

A valid statement of fact underlies the couplet which avers that when a church is built, the Evil One builds an adjacent chapel. Humanity ascends by spiral lines. Aggression, retrogression, action, reaction are the methods of its advance. We have to concede that the darkest crimes ever committed lie at the doors of the so-called children of light. A haughty ecclesiasticism, the corruption of spiritual guides have produced long periods of debasement in the church general, and have befouled its records with every iniquity possible to man. Even in the present, vast areas of the Christian church are in the darkness of obscurantism, the depths of immorality; and in the present, as in the past, great numbers of persons spiritually minded and perceptive of the higher ethic, are outside of the ecclesiastical pale. Hence, by the logic of facts, the church is compelled to concede its fallibility; its subjection, in common with society at large, to the gradual, aggressive and retrogressive processes of our common mental, moral and spiritual existence.